



# Policy Statement

State of Iowa

*Policy Release Number: [2015 - 01](#)*

Date of Proposal ISICSB: January 28, 2015

Dates Posted for Public Comment: February 12, 2015 to March 11, 2015

Date Adopted by ISICSB: Meeting February 11, 2015

Public Comment:

**Policy Statement endorsing support for procurement and state funding of a Project 25 (P25) standards based 700 MHz statewide voice radio platform. Iowa Statewide Interoperability Communications System Board (ISICSB) hereby documents and publishes policy of support for, the 700 MHz P25 Statewide Voice Land Mobile Radio Interoperable Communications Platform awarded by Department of Administrative Services (DAS) in 2014, as the Iowa Statewide Interoperability Communications Platform. This Platform achieves tenets outlined in Code of Iowa Sections 80.28 and 80.29. This Platform shall be available statewide for use by any public safety, or public service providers for operable and interoperable communications.**

WHEREAS: The Iowa Statewide Interoperability Communications System Board (ISICSB) created in 2007, is charged under Code of Iowa 80.28 and 80.29 to develop, implement, identify funding for, oversee policy, and operations, which meets the needs of all Iowa public safety, which this 700 MHz P25 statewide interoperable platform provides, and;

WHEREAS: ISICSB supports P25 standards based communications for radio operable, and interoperable equipment, and land mobile radio (LMR) systems, as documented in ISICSB Policy Statement 2014-01, which this 700 MHz P25 statewide interoperable platform provides at significant cost savings, and;

WHEREAS: ISICSB has proposed several interoperable alternatives seeking to meet Iowa interoperability needs in (2009, 2010) meeting Code of Iowa directives for this Board, which proved too expensive, less expensive alternatives were sought, which this 700 MHz P25 statewide interoperable platform provides, and;

WHEREAS: The ISICSB supports a standards based statewide platform that requires an "open architecture" in all frequency bands for LMR communications systems allowing voice radio equipment from multiple vendors to work together providing real-time operability and interoperability, through a variety of methods including patched interoperability, and provides both long and short-term cost savings for all levels of government, which this 700 MHz P25 statewide interoperable platform provides, and;

WHEREAS: The ISICSB supports common standards for all frequency bands, and multi-vendor equipment to provide effective and reliable inter-agency and intra-agency radio communications, consistent with current best practices and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) Interoperability Continuum, which recognizes a standards based system as the highest level of interoperability, which this 700 MHz P25 statewide interoperable platform provides, and;

WHEREAS: The ISICSB supports development of a statewide, wide area LMR system as the states' operability and interoperability platform, and recognizes the role of a wide area LMR platform as necessary to Iowa statewide voice radio operability and interoperability solution at the city, county, state, and federal levels, in responding to and mitigating threats and disasters, which this 700 MHz P25 statewide interoperable platform provides, and;

WHEREAS: The ISICSB supports multi-vendor equipment compatibility allowing a graceful migration for all public safety communications systems in all frequency bands leading to increased cross frequency band interoperability, which this 700 MHz P25 statewide interoperable platform provides, and;

WHEREAS: The ISICSB supports standards stimulating manufacturer involvement and competition throughout a system's lifecycle, and multiple vendors' equipment to be utilized on a common system, which this 700 MHz P25 statewide interoperable platform provides, and;

WHEREAS: A coalition of Iowa, City and County agencies voiced their support for a P25 statewide operability and interoperability platform available for their use which this 700 MHz P25 statewide interoperable platform provides, and; Now therefore

IT IS THE ISICSB POLICY:

**That the Iowa Statewide Interoperability Communications System Board (ISICSB) hereby documents and publishes policy of support for, the 700 MHz P25 Statewide Voice Land Mobile Radio Interoperable Communications Platform awarded by Department of Administrative Services (DAS) in 2014, as the Iowa Statewide Interoperability Communications Platform. This Platform meets tenents outlined in Code of Iowa Sections 80.28 and 80.29. This Platform shall be made available statewide for use by any and all public safety, and public service providers for operable and interoperable communications.**

**IT IS FURTHER POLICY THAT:**

**ISICSB shall establish a standing User Group Committee (UGC) of no more than 18 voting members from county and local, and no more than one additional vote per state or federal agency operationally using the interoperable platform. One voting member from each region shall be the Regional Interoperability Committee (RIC) chair for that region, whether or not that RIC chair is a user of statewide interoperable platform. Ex officio non-voting members of this committee shall include current president/chair or their designee of the following Iowa associations: Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO), Association of School Boards, Emergency Management Association, Emergency Medical Services Association, Hospital Association, Fire Chiefs Association, Fire Fighters Association, League of Cities, National Emergency Number Association (NENA), Police Chiefs Association, Police Officers Association, Public Airport Association, Public Health Association, Public Transit Association, Public Works Association, Sheriff and Deputies Association, State Association of Counties, State Patrol Supervisor's Association, State Troopers Association, 700 MHz Regional Planning Group, 800**

**MHz Regional Planning Group, Region 15, and other associations as deemed necessary by the Governance Committee to ensure adequate representation of interested parties in monitoring and governance of this platform. To be a voting member, unless RIC chair for that region, users must be from, and represent a user agency, using this interoperable platform for daily operability/interoperability, in their respective region. User agencies must demonstrate full-time daily operational/interoperable use on interoperable platform, as determined by Governance Committee, and then may apply in writing to ISICSB Chair for appointment to USC as one representative from their region. ISICSB Chair shall appoint no more than three users from any one of six regional areas, and one of those three shall be RIC chair for that region. Chair shall seek to diversify public safety users across public safety disciplines represented on ISICSB using weighting methodologies. Methodologies shall be determined and agencies recommended to ISICSB Chair by Governance Committee. Governance Committee shall include consideration of number users of each discipline on interoperable platform, frequency of use of platform by each discipline, specific needs of each discipline, and other unique factors as determined by Governance Committee. These weighting methodologies, terms of appointment, meeting dates and locations may change from time to time to accommodate changing user participation on Iowa Interoperability Voice Radio Platform, or other circumstances, to maintain an effective advisory role of this standing committee for determining platform access, performance, security, grade of service, and other features and functions as may become technologically available, or necessary for the uninterrupted use and sustainment of this platform. This User Group Committee may recommend to ISICSB on any matters regarding the Statewide Platform including criteria for adding or removing users, increasing or decreasing coverage, availability, reliability, security, resiliency, features or functionality.**

**IT IS FURTHER POLICY THAT:**

**ISICSB recognizes this is a Statewide Land Mobile Voice Radio Platform with a primary purpose of providing operable and interoperable public safety voice radio communication needs. ISICSB support does not include providing funding for subscriber units for any agency at the federal, state, county, or local level. Each agency whether federal, state, county or local must buy their own radios or system, network, or connection to platform. ISICSB's support recognizes agencies using this platform for operational use (not interoperable use), may be requested to pay fees, which may be necessary from time to time associated with access, use, enhancement, or sustained support of this platform.**